

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) applauded investments in job growth, education, high-speed rail and funding for the Great Lakes outlaid in the FY2011 budget submitted today by President Obama.

“The budget is the most moral document we put together as a government because it shows what we truly value,” said Slaughter. “This year I believe our priorities are in the right place. This budget focuses on creating jobs and increasing education funding to train the next generation in the jobs of tomorrow. It also has much-needed funding for the Great Lakes. As the President and Democratic Congress move forward with this fiscally responsible spending blueprint, it is important to mention that this budget gives an accurate picture of our nation’s spending by including the cost of our wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. I’m also pleased to see another \$1 billion for high-speed rail.”

On Thursday, New York was awarded \$151 million in stimulus funds that will go help build a third track dedicated to passenger rail that will increase travel options, reduce travel time and stimulate the Upstate economy. Slaughter has already begun advocating for an increase in this funding and for New York to get a fair share.

“I am disappointed, however, that the Brownfields Economic Development Initiative has been cut because the redevelopment of Western New York’s brownfields is long overdue,” said Slaughter. “I’ll be fighting to make sure that brownfields get the attention they need to be redeveloped into more functional sites.”

Below are highlights of projects with a direct impact on Western New York:

Programs Spurring Job Growth

Last week Slaughter held economic roundtables with business leaders and academics in Rochester and Buffalo.

- The FY2011 Budget includes a 6.4 percent increase in civilian research and development projects that can help spur local job growth. The budgets calls for \$61.6 billion that can help local universities that are already helping to develop the clean energy technologies of tomorrow. Combined with Western New York’s skilled workforce and an infrastructure built for

manufacturing, investments in research and development only stand to help our area.

- Next year's budget expands investment in domestic, clean energy manufacturing by \$5 billion. The Section 48(c) Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credit was created by the Recovery Act to spur private investment in facilities that manufacture advanced energy technologies in fields like renewable energy, energy storage, advanced energy transmission, energy conservation, and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions mitigation. The program provides a 30 percent tax credit to qualified investments in new, expanded, or re-equipped advanced energy manufacturing projects, allocating a total of \$2.3 billion to clean energy manufacturers. The Budget expands this successful program, providing an additional \$5 billion to provide this tax credit to many more advanced energy manufacturing projects. This will help spur private investment in clean energy manufacturing and create jobs, helping to lay the groundwork for American leadership in the new clean energy economy.

Investing in Education

- This year's budget will help more than 526,700 students in New York afford college by raising the maximum Pell award to \$5,710, and increase the funding available to New York students to \$2.2 billion. It will make it easier for low-income students to repay their loans by reducing monthly payments and can have their remaining debt forgiven after 20 years.

- A \$4.5 billion increase in education spending including \$3.6 billion for New York to develop better teachers and classrooms to meet 21st century challenges, \$300 million in new grants to develop and implement curricula and improve teaching and learning in science and math, \$150 million to competitive grants for school districts, nonprofits, and other organizations to improve teaching and accelerate student learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Protecting the Great Lakes

- Next year's budget includes \$300 million for the Great Lakes through the ecosystem restoration efforts. This EPA led interagency effort to restore the Great Lakes focuses on priority environmental issues such as contaminated sediments and toxics, nonpoint source pollution, habitat degradation and loss, and invasive species.

More Money for High-Speed Rail

- Next year's budget again allocates \$1 billion for high-speed rail projects across the county. Last week New York learned it would receive \$151 million from the Recovery Act. It is expected

that Congress will increase the amount of rail funding as the budget moves forward and Slaughter will be leading the fight in this direction.